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Switalski Press Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MAY 25, 2005**

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Switalski Bill to Fight Steroid Abuse in Athletics

Senate Bill 500 to promote fair play, deter abuse of steroids

(Lansing)- State Senator Michael Switalski (D-Roseville) introduced legislation last week that would help combat the use of illegal steroids and promote fair play among high school athletes.

“The use of steroids to enhance an athlete’s performance is cheating and should not be tolerated,” said Switalski. “It is unhealthy and destroys the fairness of athletic competition.”

Senate Bill 500 would require random drug testing of high school athletes that participate in statewide tournaments, such as the state football playoffs or district track meets. The bill would also establish penalties for athletes that test positive for steroid use. A first offense would result in the suspension of a student athlete from participating in high school sports for 180 school days. A second offense would result in a suspension from athletic participation for 360 school days with a third offense resulting in a student athlete being permanently ineligible to participate in high school sports. The bill also contains provisions that would allow for shorter suspensions if a student completes substance abuse counseling for the first and second offense.

“Studies have shown that the use of steroids among high school students has increased,” said Switalski. “The need for athletes to gain a competitive advantage over their opponents has lead to this increase. A random testing program would serve as an effective deterrent in preventing high school athletes from using steroids and putting their health in danger.”

Random steroid testing would be funded by a \$1 surcharge on general admission to high school playoff games and statewide tournaments. Senate Bill 500 is currently in the Senate Education Committee where it awaits further consideration.

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